

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

September 12, 2017

The President  
The White House  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We write to urge you to grant Temporary Protected Status (TPS) to the foreign nationals now in the United States who are from Hurricane Irma-affected regions in the Caribbean. While Congress and the Administration work to provide relief for those affected by devastation from Irma in our own country, we must also support our friends in the Caribbean.

Hurricane Irma is a storm of unprecedented measure. With maximum wind speeds of 185 miles-per-hour made it the second-fastest recorded hurricane in history. Requiring those in the United States to return to their countries under the present conditions would be a serious threat to their safety.

The affected regions clearly meet the criteria for Temporary Protected Status designation. The destruction it has left behind is unprecedented. Charles Fernandez, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Trade for Antigua and Barbuda, has reported that "upwards of 90 percent" of Barbuda has been destroyed. The most recent reports have moved that number closer to 95 percent. Seven thousand Dominicans have already been displaced as more than 2,000 houses were destroyed by the Hurricane. The casualty toll is slowly rising as deaths have been reported in Barbuda and Saint Martin. The economies of the affected areas have been completely destroyed and will take years to rebuild.

Providing nationals of the affected areas with an opportunity to remain temporarily in the United States will contribute to greater stability and significantly aid in the ongoing mission of reconstruction. We hope you will act as quickly as possible to grant them the protected status they deserve.

Sincerely,

 

Barbara Lee

Jeffery

[Signature]

Joseph

Spencer E. Platt

Arlette D. Clarke

Kathy Cost

Lucille Kopal-Alanay

Sheila Jackson Lee

Bobby Z

Danny K. Davis

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Neema J. Tom      Ro Kh  
J. Luis Conca      Debbie Wasserman Schultz  
Lois Franklin

cc:    Acting Secretary Elaine Duke, Department of Homeland Security  
      Secretary Rex Tillerson, Department of State

### **Attachment: List of Signatories**

1. Rep. Eliot L. Engel
2. Rep. Ilena Ros-Lehtinen
3. Rep. Barbara Lee
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5. Rep. Adriano Espaillat
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75. Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz
76. Rep. Lois Frankel